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to purify a room, our only chance consists in spraying the walls, the floors, and the objects in the room with a reliable liquid disinfectant. This tends to purify the places from whence the air derives its supply of bacteria." The admirable work of CHICK on the action of disinfectants receives no comment, whereas MIQUEL's work, so long out of date, is given great prominence.

In the chapter on sewage and sewage disposal (p. 239) are to be found remarks that in this country at least would be deemed erroneous, improper, and inadvisable. For instance, who would willingly subscribe to the following: "There is great similarity between *Bac. typhosus* and *Bac. coli communis*, an organism which is very common in sewage, and which is strongly suspected of being the cause of epidemic diarrhea, though positive proof is still wanting"? Dr. ELLIS condemns the methods of killing off bacteria in sewage by antiseptics as "not practicable," whereas RIDEAL in his own country, and PHELPS and CARPENTER and others in the United States, have shown how valuable an agent is calcium hypochlorite in this direction.

In the section heading "Disposal without purification" (p. 247), discussing the disposal of the contents of cesspools, the author writes: "The other [insoluble] substances that in larger places usually find their way to the sewage drain are thrown broadcast on to any convenient spot, such as a roadside or a neighboring common. This method is efficient enough for very small places, though it must detract somewhat from the healthiness of village life." It is to be regretted that Dr. ELLIS puts himself on record as condoning such a practice; no matter under what conditions of life, the practice is sufficiently vile and unsanitary to be most strongly condemned.

It is very noticeable that no chapter on the biological methods of water purification found a place in the book, despite its importance to technical students.

One cannot turn over the pages of the book without remarking upon the inexcusable crudeness of some of the drawings, which actually mar what otherwise makes a most presentable volume.—NORMAN MACL. HARRIS.

Vegetable proteins

Another of the monographs on biochemistry edited by PLIMMER and HOPKINS has just appeared,⁴ and deals with vegetable proteins. It is hardly necessary to state to biological chemists or plant physiologists that no one can speak more authoritatively upon this topic than OSBORNE. Plant physiologists, of whom a fundamental knowledge in several accessory sciences is demanded, are sure to welcome a work of this kind. It shows directness and force that comes from the author, who is the greatest producer in the subject he is discussing. The bibliography consists of 608 citations.

A list of the chapter headings will give a good idea of the scope of the work: historical review; occurrence of proteins in different parts of plants and their

⁴ OSBORNE, THOMAS B., *The vegetable proteins*. 8vo. pp. xiii + 125. New York: Longmans, Green & Co. 1909.

general characteristics; isolation and preparation of seed proteins; basic and acid properties of proteins; solubility of vegetable proteins; precipitation of vegetable proteins; denaturing of vegetable proteins; physical constants of vegetable proteins; products of hydrolysis of vegetable proteins; classification of vegetable proteins; some physiological relations of vegetable proteins to the animal organism and the biological relations of seed proteins to one another.

The plant physiologist will welcome this work especially, for most discussions of proteins deal in the main with animal proteins.—WILLIAM CROCKER.

MINOR NOTICES

A new catalogue of Connecticut plants.—The Connecticut Botanical Society, through a committee of six of its members, has issued recently a *Catalogue of the flowering plants and ferns of Connecticut*.⁵ The publication has been modestly termed a *catalogue*, but it is far more than a mere list of plants of the state. The scientific and common names of the plant are given, as well as limited synonymy, habitat, distribution, and citation of exsiccatae; and often a note on the economic import of the species is added.

In the sequence of families and in nomenclature the work accords with the seventh edition of GRAY'S *Manual*. A statistical summary gives the following composition of the flora: number of families 134, genera 621, species 1942, varieties and forms 286; a total of 2228 recognizably distinct plants; and approximately four-fifths of these are indigenous to the state.

The work is an important one to the taxonomic student; and the collaborators have done a commendable service to their state in recording, in available and useful form and with a high degree of accuracy and completeness, their intimate knowledge of the Connecticut flora.—J. M. GREENMAN.

North American Flora.⁶—Volume XXV, part II, is devoted to the Geraniales, as follows: Tropaeolaceae by G. V. NASH, Balsaminaceae and Limnanthaceae by P. A. RYDBERG, Koerberliniaceae by J. H. BARNHART, Zygophyllaceae by A. M. VAIL and P. A. RYDBERG, and the Malpighiaceae by J. K. SMALL. Four new genera of the Malpighiaceae are proposed, namely, *Adenoporces*, *Callaeum*, *Rosanthus*, and *Banisteriopsis*. Several new species are described; these are distributed among the following genera: *Impatiens* (3), *Fagonia* (3), *Guaiacum* (3), *Kallstroemia* (6), *Mascagnia* (2), *Hiraea* (1), *Triopteris* (1), *Tetrapteris* (2), *Banisteriopsis* (2), *Banisteria* (2), *Stigmaphyllon* (1), *Thryallis* (1), and *Malpighia* (5).—J. M. GREENMAN.

⁵ GRAVES, C. B., EAMES, E. H., BISSELL, C. H., ANDREWS, L., HARGER, E. B., and WEATHERBY, C. A., Committee of the Connecticut Botanical Society. *Catalogue of the flowering plants and ferns of Connecticut growing without cultivation*. Bulletin No. 14, State Geological and Natural History Survey. 8vo. pp. 569. Hartford, Conn. 1910.

⁶ North American Flora, vol. XXV, part II, pp. 89-171. New York Botanical Garden. 1910.